

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing signaling in a communication link between a sending node and a receiving node, the method comprising:

providing a current transmission, wherein the current transmission which includes a predetermined bit pattern and current control information;

if the that indicates whether current control information in the current transmission is to can be used alone for decoding a transport channel, providing a first indication in the predetermined bit pattern that the current control information is to be used alone for decoding the transport channel; and

if or whether at least a portion of control information from an earlier transmission is to must also be used to decode the transport channel, providing a second indication in the predetermined bit pattern that the control information from the earlier transmission is to be used to decode the transport channel.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein a transport format combination indicator (TFCI) in the current transmission contains the control information in the current transmission.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein a transport format combination indicator (TFCI) in the current transmission contains the predetermined bit pattern.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the current transmission is provided using a hybrid automatic repeat request (HARQ) protocol.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the current transmission comprises a retransmission of the earlier transmission.

6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the sending node is user equipment and the receiving node is a node B in an uplink.
9. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the sending node is a Node B and the receiving node is user equipment in a downlink.
10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined bit pattern consists of one bit.
11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined bit pattern comprises a bit pattern of "00" or a bit pattern of "11".
12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the TFCI includes one bit comprising a TFCI flag indicating how to decode data blocks in a current data frame.
13. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein a separate dedicated control channel contains the predetermined bit pattern.
14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein if the one bit is a logical "1", the receiving node uses a transport format combination indicator (TFCI) in the current transmission for decoding, wherein a number of information bits for a transport format of the current transmission equals a number of information bits for a transport format defined in the earlier transmission.
15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein if the one bit is a logical "0," using a number of channel bits from a transport format combination indicator (TFCI) in the current transmission for the decoding, and using a number of information bits from the earlier transmission for the decoding.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the current transmission is discarded if there is no earlier transmission.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein an acknowledgement (ACK) is sent if the decoding is successful.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein a no-acknowledgement (NAK) is sent if the decoding is unsuccessful.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, further comprising:  
reading the TFCI flag; and  
if the TFCI flag is equal to a logical "1", using rate matching (RM) parameters from the TFCI for decoding data in the transport channel.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20, further comprising sending an acknowledgement (ACK) if the decoding is successful.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20, further comprising sending a no-acknowledgement (NAK) if the decoding is not successful and storing the rate matching (RM) parameters.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, further comprising:  
if the TFCI flag is equal to a logical "0", using a number of channel bits from the current transmission for the decoding;  
if the earlier transmission is available using a number of information bits from the earlier transmission for the decoding; and  
if the earlier transmission is not available, discarding the current transmission and sending a non-acknowledgement.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the current transmission is provided via a computer program running in a processing means in an

uplink/downlink dedicated channel transmission module of either the sending node or the receiving node.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions stored thereon that, upon execution by a processor, cause the processor to:

provide a current transmission in a communication link between a sending node and a receiving node, wherein the current transmission includes a predetermined bit pattern and current control information:

~~if the~~ that indicates whether current control information in the current transmission is to ~~can~~ be used alone for decoding a transport channel, provide a first indication in the predetermined bit pattern that the current control information is to be used alone for decoding the transport channel; and

~~if or whether~~ at least a portion of control information from an earlier transmission is to ~~must also~~ be used to decode the transport channel for the decoding, provide a second indication in the predetermined bit pattern that the control information from the earlier transmission is to be used to decode the transport channel.

~~wherein the computer program product is run in a processing means which forms part of an uplink/downlink dedicated channel transmission module of either the sending node or the receiving node.~~

26. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the sending node and the receiving node form part of a wireless network.

27. (Currently Amended) A receiving node for receiving signaling in a communication link with a sending node, comprising:

a receiving module configured to

receive a current transmission, wherein the current transmission includes a predetermined bit pattern and current control information;

~~if the~~ that indicates whether current control information in the current transmission is to ~~can~~ be used alone for decoding a transport channel, receive a first

indication in the predetermined bit pattern that the current control information is to be used alone for decoding the transport channel; and

if ~~or whether~~ at least a portion of control information from an earlier transmission is to must also be used for the decoding to decode the transport channel, receive a second indication in the predetermined bit pattern that the control information from the earlier transmission is to be used to decode the transport channel.

28. (Previously Presented) A receiving node according to claim 27, wherein a transport format combination indicator (TFCI) in the current transmission contains the control information in the current transmission.

29. (Original) A receiving node method according to claim 27, wherein a transport format combination indicator (TFCI) in the current transmission contains the predetermined bit pattern.

30. (Original) A receiving node according to claim 27, wherein the communication link is based on using a hybrid automatic repeat request (HARQ) protocol.

31. (Previously Presented) A receiving node according to claim 27, wherein the current transmission comprises a retransmission of the earlier transmission.

32. (Original) A receiving node according to claim 27, wherein the signaling is used for decoding a transport channel being sent in the communications link.

33. (Original) A receiving node according to claim 27, wherein the communication link is an uplink or a downlink.

34. (Original) A receiving node according to claim 27, wherein the sending node is user equipment and the receiving node is a node B in an uplink.

35. (Original) A receiving node according to claim 27, wherein the sending node is a Node B and the receiving node is user equipment in a downlink.

36. (Original) A receiving node according to claim 27, wherein the predetermined bit pattern consists of only one bit.

37. (Previously Presented) A receiving node according to claim 27, wherein the predetermined bit pattern comprises a bit pattern of "00" or "11".

38. (Currently Amended) A sending node for providing signaling in a communication link with a receiving node, comprising:  
a transmission module configured to

send a current transmission, wherein the current transmission includes a predetermined bit pattern and current control information;

if the ~~that indicates whether~~ current control information in the current transmission is to ~~can~~ be used alone for decoding a transport channel, provide a first indication in the predetermined bit pattern that the current control information is to be used alone for the transport channel; and

if ~~or whether~~ at least a portion of control information from an earlier transmission is to ~~must also~~ be used to decode the transport channel, provide a second indication in the predetermined bit pattern that the control information from the earlier transmission is to be used to decode the transport channel.

39. (Previously Presented) A sending node according to claim 38, wherein a transport format combination indicator (TFCI) in the current transmission contains the control information in the current transmission.

40. (Original) A sending node method according to claim 38, wherein a transport format combination indicator (TFCI) in the current transmission contains the predetermined bit pattern.

41. (Original) A sending node according to claim 38, wherein the communication link is based on using a hybrid automatic repeat request (HARQ) protocol.

42. (Previously Presented) A sending node according to claim 38, wherein the current transmission comprises a retransmission of the earlier transmission.

43. (Original) A sending node according to claim 38, wherein the signaling is used for decoding a transport channel being sent in the communications link.

44. (Original) A sending node according to claim 38, wherein the communication link is an uplink or a downlink.

45. (Original) A sending node according to claim 38, wherein the sending node is user equipment and the receiving node is a node B in an uplink.

46. (Original) A sending node according to claim 38, wherein the sending node is a Node B and the receiving node is user equipment in a downlink.

47. (Original) A sending node according to claim 38, wherein the predetermined bit pattern consists of only one bit.

48. (Previously Presented) A sending node according to claim 38, wherein the predetermined bit pattern comprises a bit pattern of "00" or "11".

49. (Currently Amended) A system for providing signaling in a communication link, the system comprising:

a sending node comprising a transmission module configured to transmit a current transmission; and

a receiving node comprising a receiving module configured to receive the current transmission from the sending node, wherein

the current transmission includes a predetermined bit pattern and current control information;

wherein if the that indicates whether current control information in the current transmission is to can be used alone for decoding a transport channel, a first indication in the predetermined bit pattern indicates that the current control information is to be used alone for decoding the transport channel; and

wherein if ~~or whether~~ at least a portion of control information from an earlier transmission is to ~~must also~~ be used to decode the transport channel for the decoding, a second indication in the predetermined bit pattern indicates that the control information from the earlier transmission is to be used to decode the transport channel.

50. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 49, wherein a transport format combination indicator (TFCI) in the current transmission contains the control information in the current transmission.

51. (Original) A system method according to claim 49, wherein a transport format combination indicator (TFCI) in the current transmission contains the predetermined bit pattern.

52. (Original) A system according to claim 49, wherein the communication link is based on using a hybrid automatic repeat request (HARQ) protocol.

53. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 49, wherein the current transmission comprises a retransmission of the earlier transmission.

54. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 49, wherein the decoding comprises decoding a transport channel.

55. (Original) A system according to claim 49, wherein the communication link is an uplink or a downlink.

56. (Original) A system according to claim 49, wherein the sending node is user equipment and the receiving node is a node B in an uplink.

57. (Original) A system according to claim 49, wherein the sending node is a Node B and the receiving node is user equipment in a downlink.

58. (Original) A system according to claim 49, wherein the predetermined bit pattern consists of only one bit.



59. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 49, wherein the predetermined bit pattern comprises a bit pattern of “00” or “11”.

60. (Original) A system according to claim 49, wherein the system is a communication system.